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JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH
DATE 12 Jan 1982

WFD
7/1

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL TWINING

Subject: Flights Above 10,000 Ft. in Berlin Corridor

1. The Chairman's Staff Group recommends that you take strong objection to the curtailment of flights above 10,000 feet in the Berlin Air Corridor.
2. Since you did not have a personal voice in the decision to stop these flights, we believe that it is appropriately within your purview as Chairman, JCS to make your views known to the Secretary of Defense and the President.
3. Stopping the flights above 10,000 feet will result in the following:
 - a. Denying ourselves the right to fly at any altitude we desire outside of the Berlin control zone.
 - b. Tacit acquiescence to the unfounded Soviet protest against these flights. This, in turn, will cause a loss in prestige and leadership in the eyes of the allies who look to us for strength.
 - c. A clear-cut indication of fear of Russian exertion of force.
4. Rather than allowing certain allies to pressure us with this defeatist attitude, we believe that you should prevail on the Secretary of Defense and the President to continue these flights, with U.S. fighter escort if possible, to show the Soviets that:
 - a. We are going to protect our rights in the air as well as on the ground.

b. We are not giving in to their invalid protests.

c. We are not afraid of the Russian and will meet force with force if necessary.

d. We will utilize the Berlin Air Corridor, in accordance with current agreements, at the altitudes we deem necessary for maximum aircraft performance and proper aircraft clearance control.

Very respectfully,

CHAIRMAN'S STAFF GROUP